IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-48.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A medical device for localization of target tissue comprising:

a shaft having a distal end, a proximal end defining a proximal direction, and a side, said distal end having a distal tip, said shaft being configured for placement of said distal end into a patient's body at a desired location;

a distal cutting element disposed on said distal tip; and

a fixation element disposed on said distal end, said fixation element being configured for securing the distal end of said medical device adjacent target tissue at said desired location.

Please add the following new claims:

49. The medical device of claim 1, wherein said distal cutting element is an electrosurgical cutting element.

50. The medical device of claim 49, wherein said distal cutting element is spaced away from said distal tip.

51. The medical device of claim 1, wherein said fixation element is disposed on said distal end proximal of said distal tip.

52. The medical device of claim 1, wherein said fixation element is configured for penetrating tissue.

53. The medical device of claim 51, wherein said fixation element comprises at least one radially extendable and retractable member which is radially extendable and retractable from a side of the distal end of the shaft, said member having a free end and being configured for securing the distal end of the shaft adjacent target tissue.

54. The medical device of claim 53, wherein said fixation element comprises a plurality of radially extendable and retractable members which are radially extendable and retractable from a side of the distal end of the shaft, said members having free ends and being configured for securing the distal end of the shaft adjacent target tissue.

55. A method of performing a medical procedure using a medical device comprising a shaft having a distal end, a proximal end, a fixation element, and a longitudinal axis defining a radial direction generally perpendicular to said axis, comprising:

a) placing the distal end of the shaft in a patient's body, so that the distal end is disposed adjacent target tissue; and

b) extending into the target tissue a fixation element from a side of the shaft spaced proximal to the distal end, said member having a free end configured for engaging tissue, so that the distal end of the shaft becomes secured adjacent the target tissue.

56. The method of claim 55, wherein said fixation element comprises at least one radially extendable and retractable member.

57. The method of claim 55, wherein said fixation element comprises a plurality of radially extendable and retractable members.

58. A method of performing a medical procedure using a medical device comprising a shaft having a distal end, a distal cutting element, a proximal end, a fixation element, and a longitudinal axis defining a radial direction generally perpendicular to said axis, comprising:

a) cutting with said distal cutting element;

b) placing the distal end of the shaft in a patient's body, so that the distal end is disposed adjacent target tissue; and

c) extending into the target tissue a fixation element from a side of the shaft spaced proximal to the distal end, said member having a free end configured for engaging tissue, so that the distal end of the shaft becomes secured adjacent the target tissue.

59. The method of claim 58, wherein said fixation element comprises at least one radially extendable and retractable member.

60. The method of claim 58, wherein said fixation element comprises a plurality of radially extendable and retractable members.

61. The method of claim 58, wherein said distal cutting element is an electrosurgical cutting element.

62. The method of claim 58, wherein said cutting step comprises cutting target tissue.

63. The method of claim 58, wherein said cutting step comprises cutting through target tissue.

64. The method of claim 63, wherein said placing step comprises placing the distal end of the shaft in a patient's body so that the distal end is disposed adjacent and distal to target tissue.

65. A method for acquiring target tissue using a tissue acquisition device having a shaft with a distal end, a proximal end, a fixation element, and a longitudinal axis defining a radial direction generally perpendicular to the axis, comprising:

a) placing the distal end of the shaft in a patient's body, so that the distal end is disposed adjacent the target tissue;

b) securing the distal end of the shaft adjacent the target tissue by extending into the target tissue a fixation element from a side of the shaft spaced proximal to the distal end, said fixation element having a free end configured for engaging tissue; and

c) acquiring one or more tissue samples of target tissue.

66. The method of claim 65, wherein the step of securing the distal end of the shaft comprises extending at least one radially extendable and retractable member from a side of the shaft spaced proximal to the distal end.

67. The method of claim 66, wherein the step of securing the distal end of the shaft comprises extending a plurality of radially extendable and retractable members from a side of the shaft spaced proximal to the distal end.